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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC TO OBSERVE FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK WITH SERIES OF CONSUMER TIPS ON WEB SITE

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is observing the fifth annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) by posting a series of consumer tips on its Web site –www.fcc.gov. NCPW runs from February 2 through 8 and the FCC will be posting a different tip each weekday.

President Bush has issued a Proclamation designating the week as NCPW. NCPW highlights consumer education and protection efforts around the country.

This year's NCPW theme, "Information Security: Putting the Pieces Together," focuses on practical steps consumers and businesses can take to manage their personal and sensitive information wisely and help minimize its misuse. The FCC's tips will address this issue.

K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, said, "We want consumers to know about the FCC's existing procedures and rules designed to protect consumers' privacy. It is critical in the telecom sector, where so much personal information is collected and transmitted, that consumers are vigilant and know how to protect themselves. The consumer tips we are posting on our Web site will provide valuable information for helping ensure that private information remains private."

NCPW brings together representatives from federal, state and local governments and organizations and national advocacy groups to help consumers and the business community understand how information security affects the decisions they make at home and in the marketplace. For more information about NCPW, visit the NCPW website at www.consumer.gov/ncpw.